

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- [c1] 1. An inflatable external airbag system having an airbag which can be deployed from a rear portion of a hood along an outer surface of a windshield of a motor vehicle, comprising:  
 a regulating member<sup>14</sup> for deflecting the airbag toward the windshield when the airbag deploys;  
 wherein the regulating member is positioned so that the deployed airbag is located between the regulating member and the windshield.
- [c2] 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the hood includes a front and a rear portion<sup>12</sup> and the rear portion comprises the regulating member<sup>14</sup>.
- [c3] 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the regulating member moves upwardly away from the front portion of the hood as the airbag deploys.
- [c4] 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the regulating member<sup>14</sup> is pivotally connected<sup>16a</sup> to the front portion of the hood.
- [c5] 5. An inflatable airbag system for a vehicle having a windshield and a hood, the system comprising:  
 an airbag positioned under a rear portion of the hood configured to deploy on an exterior surface of the windshield;  
 wherein the rear portion of the hood is configured so that during inflation of the airbag the rear portion pivots upwardly away to deflect the airbag toward the windshield.
- [c6] 6. An inflatable airbag system for a vehicle having a windshield, a hood and a cowl, the system comprising:  
 an airbag configured to deploy on an exterior surface of the windshield;  
 wherein the cowl comprises a regulating member having a top surface positioned essentially flush with the hood;  
 wherein the airbag is located under the regulating member; and  
 wherein the regulating member is configured so that when the airbag inflates the regulating member tilts upwardly to deflect the inflating airbag toward the windshield.

[c7]

7.The system of claim 6, wherein regulating member is positioned so that the tilting movement of regulating member is limited by the hood.